(c) whether some recent surveys and presentations at various fora of business and trade have pleaded for increasing Government investments in IT sector; and

(d) if so, the details of the plans finalised, if any, for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As per Planning Commission guidelines, each Ministry/ Department should earmark 2 to 3% of its budget for promotion of Information Technology.

Reduction in registration charges for telephone in Haryana

†1186. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken a decision to reduce the telephone registration charges in Haryana;

(b) if so, to what extent and whether Government would consider to extend this facility to the telephone subscribers of Gujarat and other States; and

(c) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Telephone registration charges in Haryana have been reduced from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 1000/- for urban areas where telephones are available on demand for the period from 31.01.2002 to 31.03.2002. In Gujarat

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

State as well, Telephone Registration Charges have been reduced from Rs. 2000/- to Rs. 1000/- for Urban Areas and the CGMs in all Telecom Circles have been empowered to reduce Registration Charges to 'nil' in areas where telephones are available on demand and they are able to sustain as such.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Internet Services in Chhattisgarh

†1187. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the districts of Chhattisgarh connected with the internet services;

(b) the details of the facilities provided to these districts;

(c) the number of hours these services remained out of order in different districts during last eighteen months, district-wise; and

(d) the details of the measures taken to make available this service in each district regularly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Internet services are available in all the 16 Districts of Chhattisgarh.

(b) The following facilities are provided:—

i) Internet access to the nearest Internet node at local call charges.

ii) Web browsing service with free e-mail id with every account.

iii) Free Internet access for Internet Dhabas in Rural areas.

(iv) Free access from 11.00 PM to 8.00 AM on week days and for full day on Sunday and National Holidays.

These facilities are extended nation-wide.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.